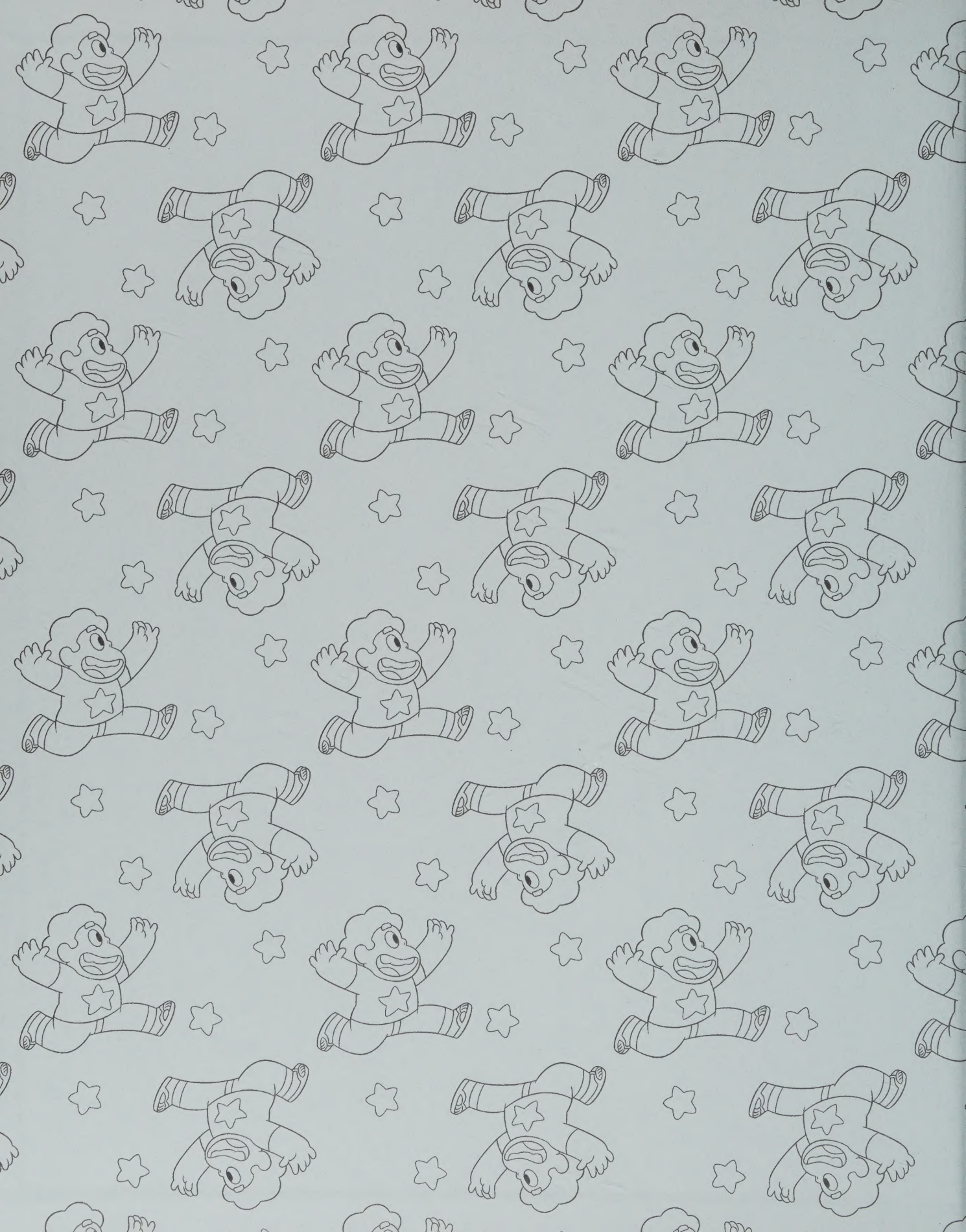
STEVEN UNIVERSE
The Tale of Steven
BY REBECCA SUGAR, CREATOR OF STEVEN UNIVERSE
ILLUSTRATED BY ELLE MICHALKA AND ANGIE WANG



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The Tale of Steven

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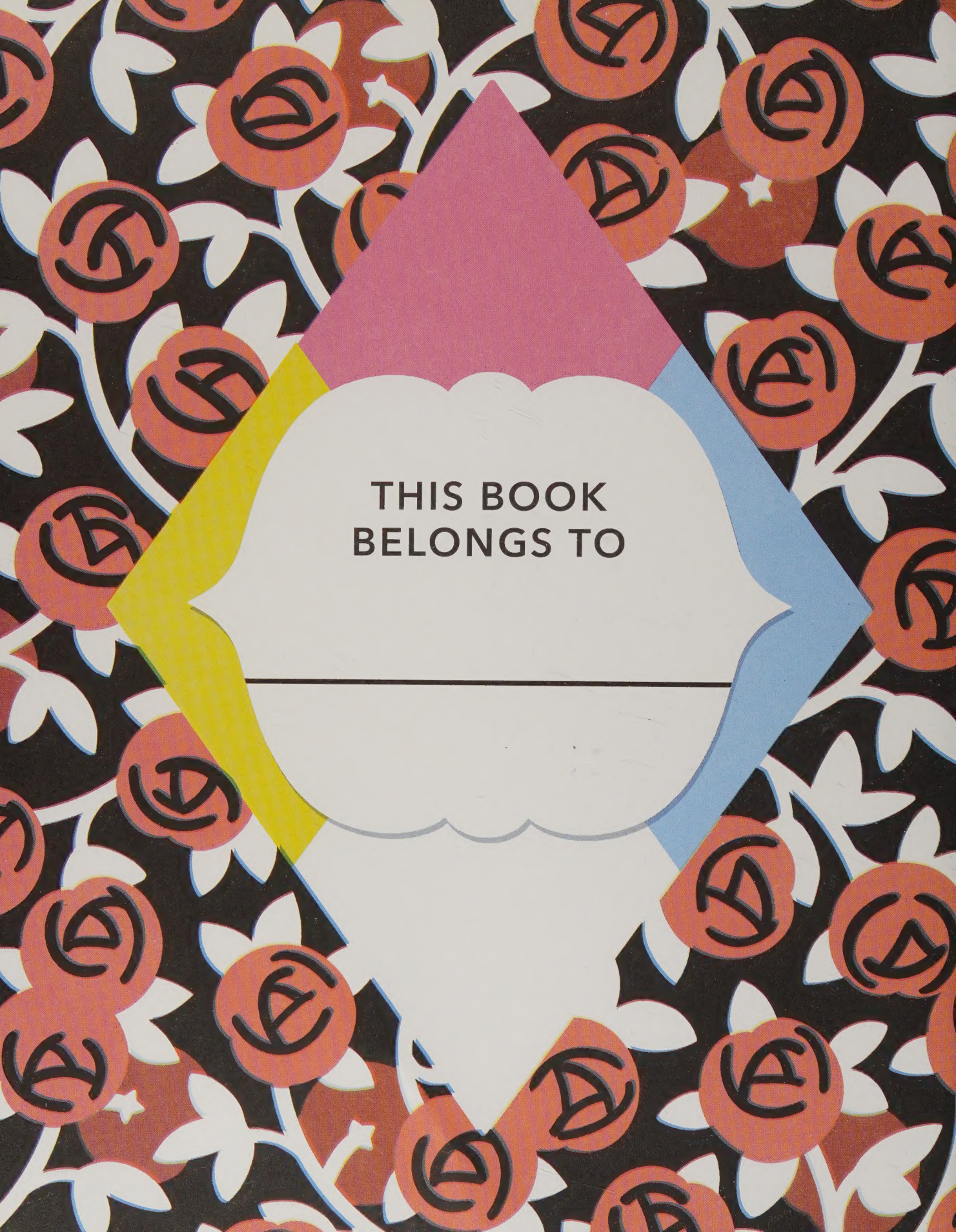
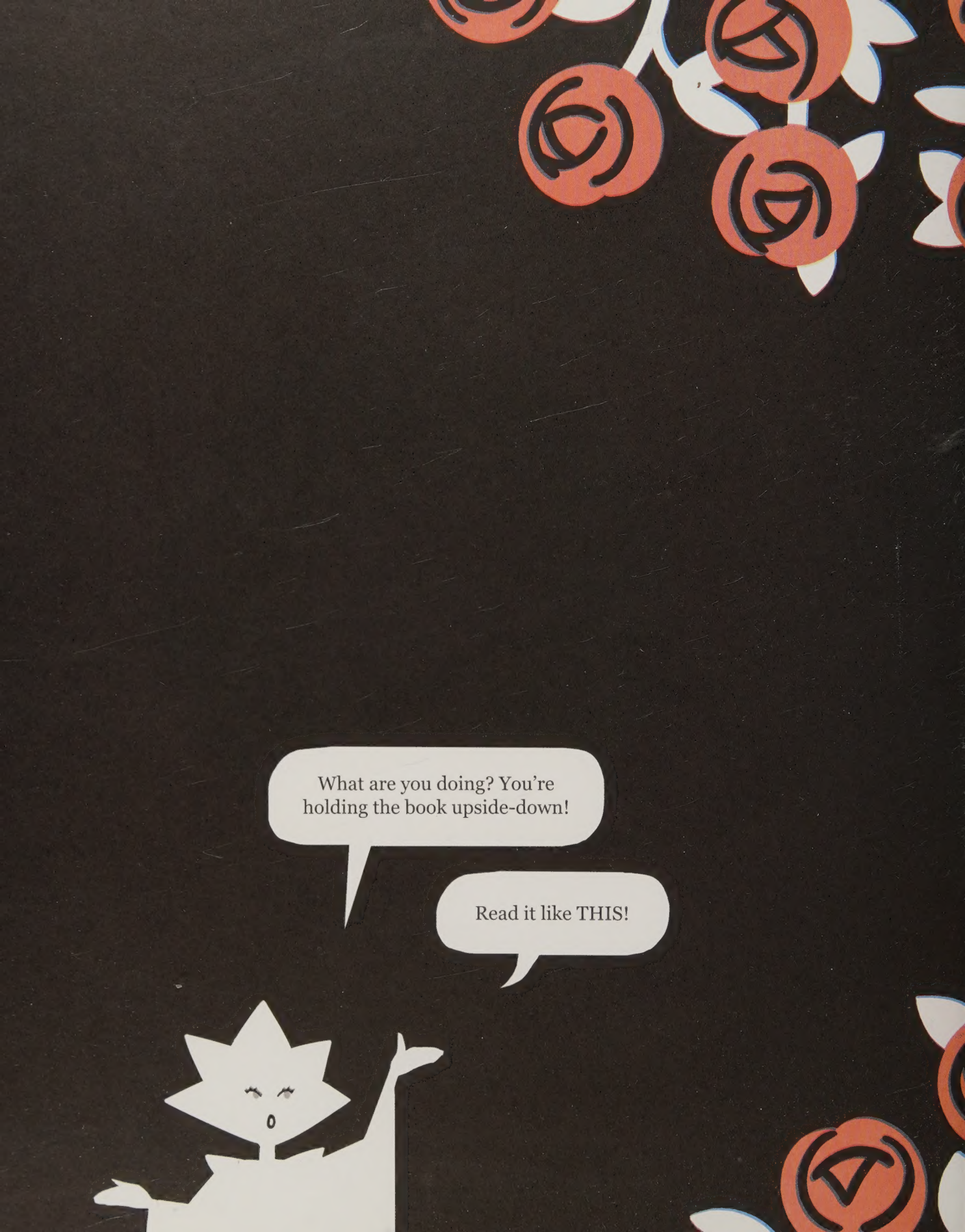
ABRAMS, NEW YORK


THIS BOOK
BELONGS TO


What are you doing? You're holding the book upside-down!
Read it like THIS!

Pink was as silly as she was small.
She was impossible to understand, impossible to ignore, and impossible to control.

Once upon a time, there were four Diamonds. White, Yellow, Blue, and the littlest Diamond, Pink.

But Blue and Yellow spoiled her with treasures, listened to her nonsense, and enabled her terrible behavior.

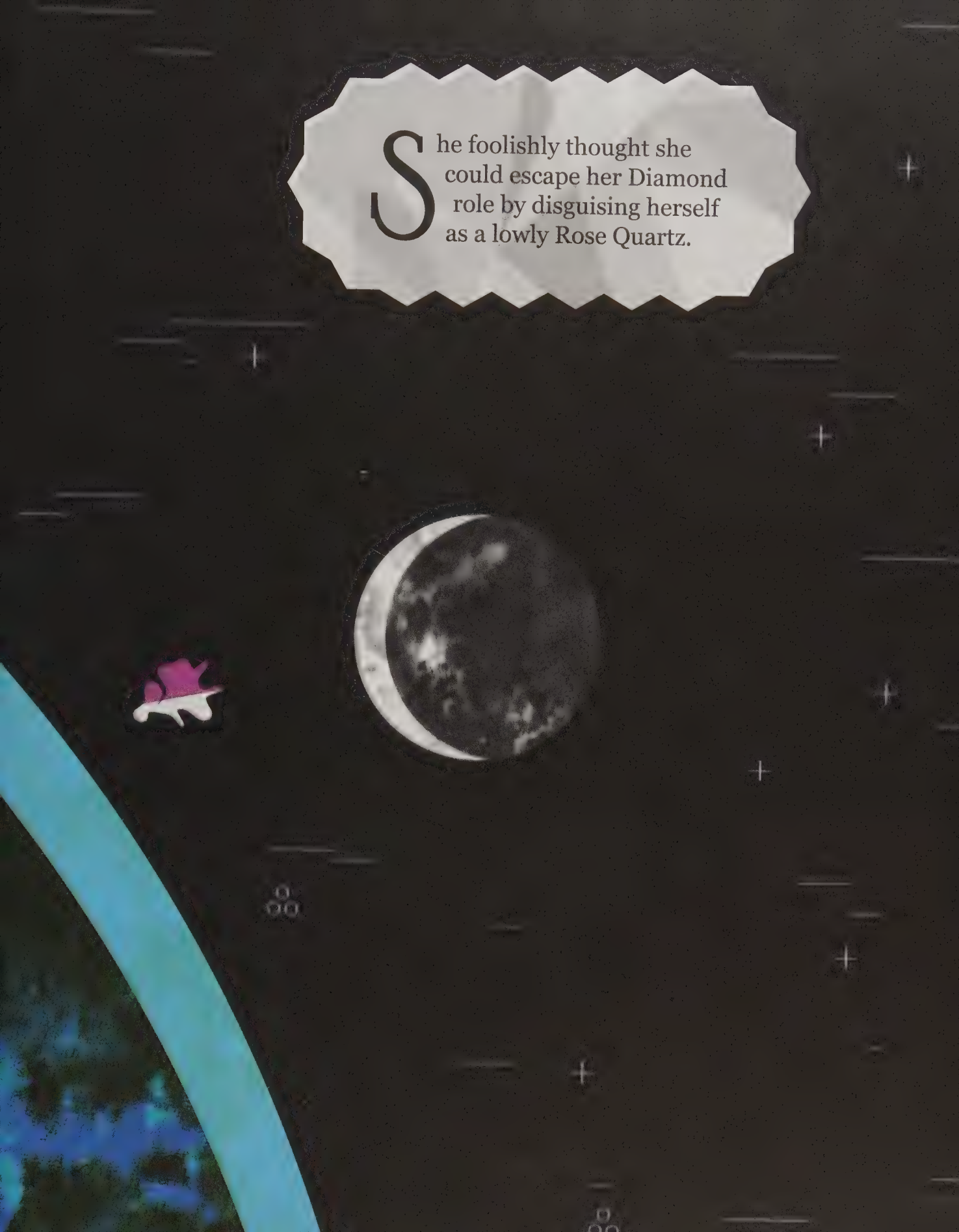
White knew better than to indulge Pink's whims.

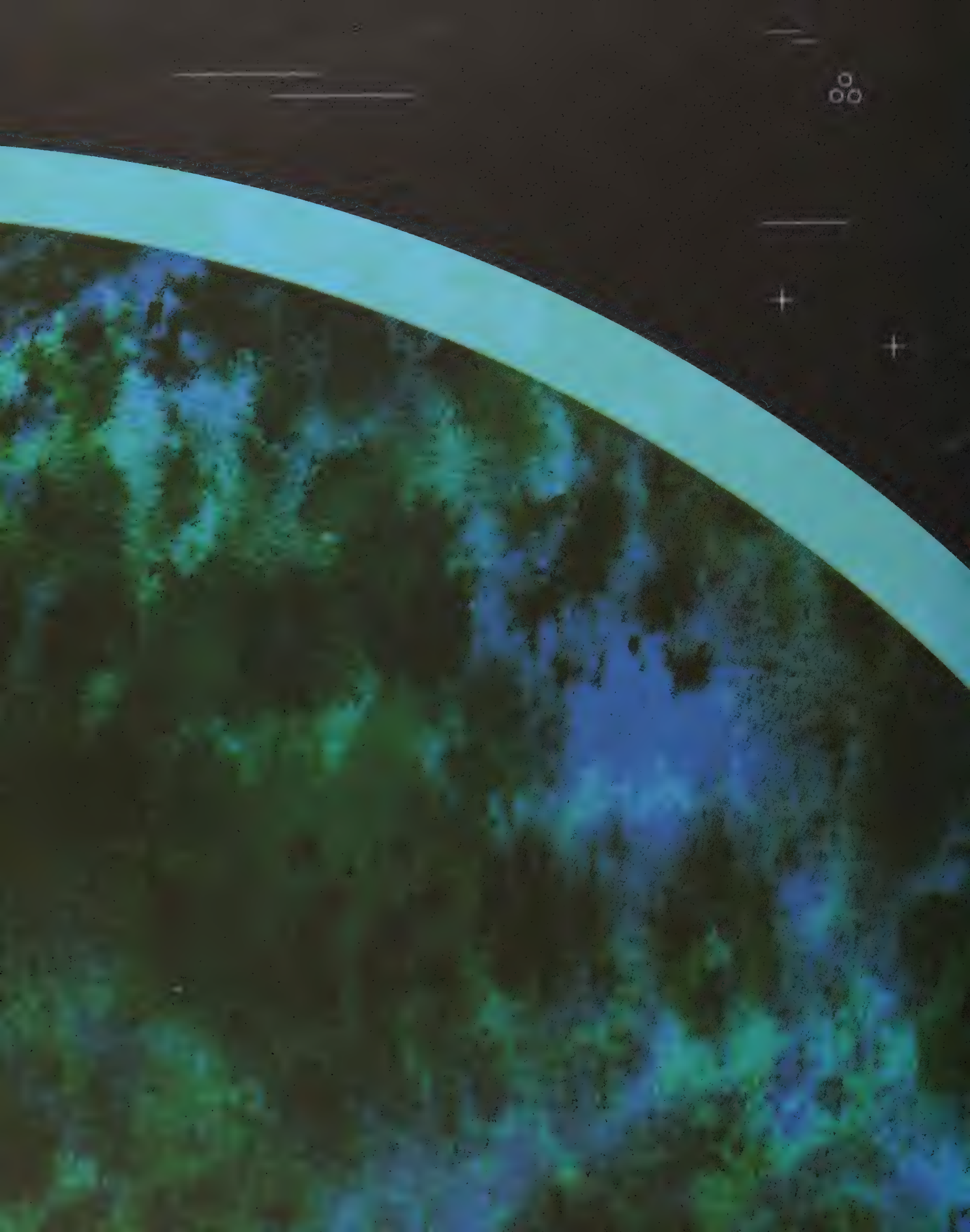
Only White was immune to Pink's ridiculous influence.

It was up to White to keep Pink in her place.

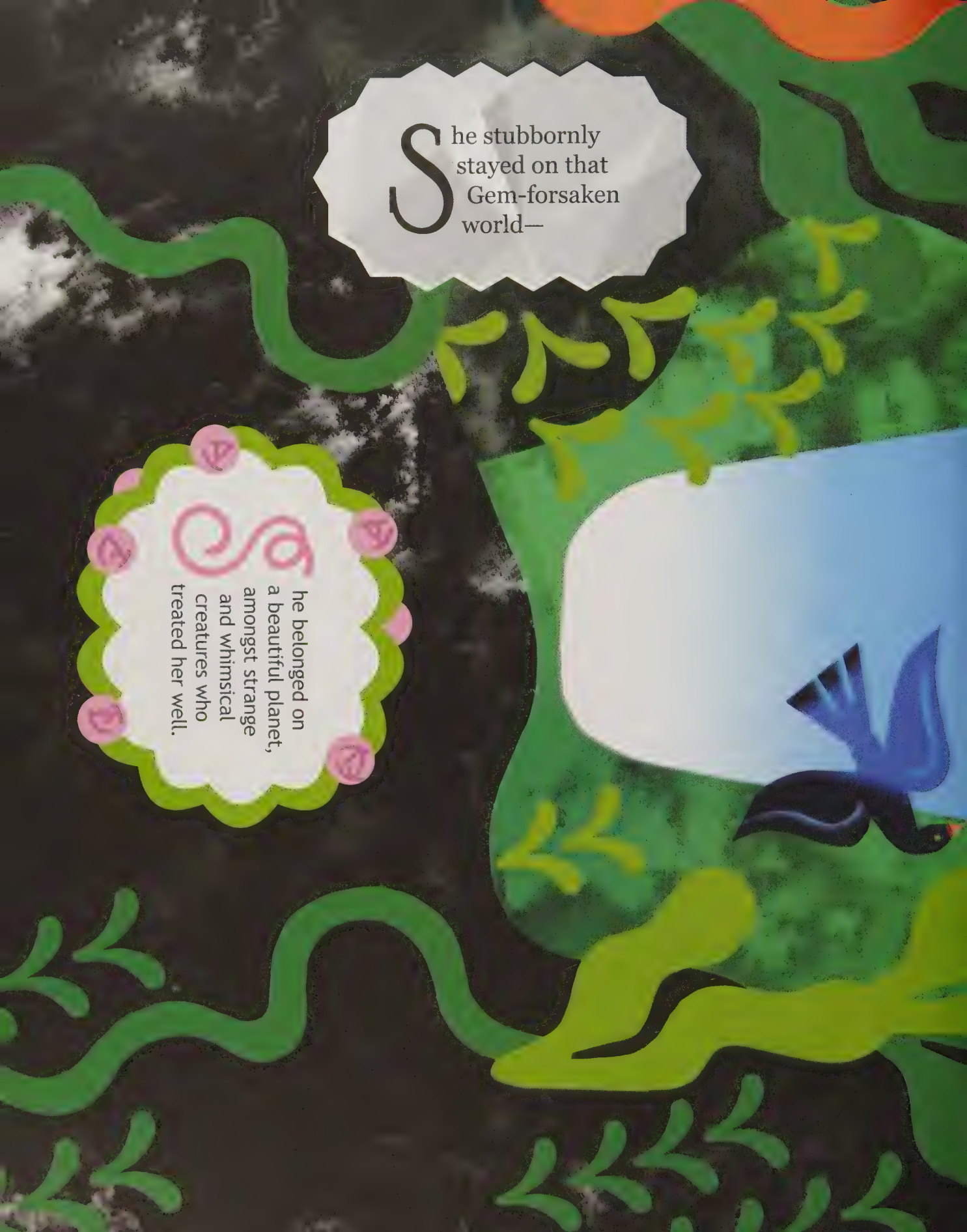
One day, Pink,
difficult as ever,
ran off to another
planet.

She foolishly thought she could escape her Diamond role by disguising herself as a lowly Rose Quartz.





Amongst the grotesque life that grew rampant there—
Once upon a time, there was a wonderful Rose Quartz, who wanted to tell her own story.
Don't be absurd! You're going to confuse everyone!
You don't need to listen to White. You can read the book this way.


She stubbornly stayed on that Gem-forsaken world—
she belonged on a beautiful planet, amongst strange and whimsical creatures who treated her well.

Look at this mess.
You're ruining my story!
This isn't your story.
It was there
she fell in love
and gave up
her existence—

Hiding from
the Diamonds,
hiding from her
Homeworld—

Fine! See how you fare without me!

And ultimately hiding from herself, inside an unwitting creature.

To have a beautiful half-human child.

Rose Quartz hoped with all her being that her child would grow up surrounded by love...

Once upon a time, there was a kid named Steven Universe, who never really got to know his mom.
Where am I? Am I inside a book?

and kind-
ness, and
care . . .

He was always hearing about her, and she sounded so amazing.
I wonder how I'm supposed to read this.
Can I hold the book different ways?
He knew she wanted to become human, and she wanted to become him, and that as long as Steven had her Gem they couldn't both exist.

The more he learned about her, the more it started to scare him—

OF COURSE there's one right way.
Now hold the book correctly.

And would never find a way back to her horrendous old home . . .

I guess there are several stories from different angles.

Maybe there isn't one right way to hold the book.

It was only a matter of time before Pink came crawling back.

Finally! Let's turn this mess around.
What!? No!

That she might be trapped inside her Gem, or that he might not be himself at all...

In a state more confusing than ever...

And never feel the way she had felt there...

nd never be picked apart by the other Diamonds.

esperate for White to correct her.

hough he couldn't be sure, he had to believe—

Believe he wasn't her, believe in himself, and—

She hoped her child would somehow, someday understand what a difference it makes to tell your own story, and—

White knew Pink would never change, and no one on this or any other world would prove her wrong, but—

Once
upon
a time

Once upon a time

Once upon a time

This way feels right to me.
I can't believe it! This does seem right.... Have I been wrong for this entire book?!

Once
upon a
time...

He did.

THIS BOOK
BELONGS TO
Steven
Universe

DEDICATED TO TRANS &
GENDER-EXPANSIVE KIDS

Rebecca Sugar is a *New York Times* bestselling author and the creator of the Emmy-nominated show *Steven Universe* on Cartoon Network. She previously worked as a writer and storyboard artist on Cartoon Network's animated series *Adventure Time*. She's an artist, songwriter, and director.

Elle Michalka is an Annie-nominated art director and *New York Times* bestselling illustrator who has worked for shows including *Steven Universe*, *Gravity Falls*, and *Midnight Gospel*. She is a native Texan and CalArts alum who currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

Angie Wang is an illustrator and cartoonist based in Los Angeles. She works as a prop/FX designer on *Steven Universe* and is one of the four cofounders of the annual comics festival Comic Arts Los Angeles.

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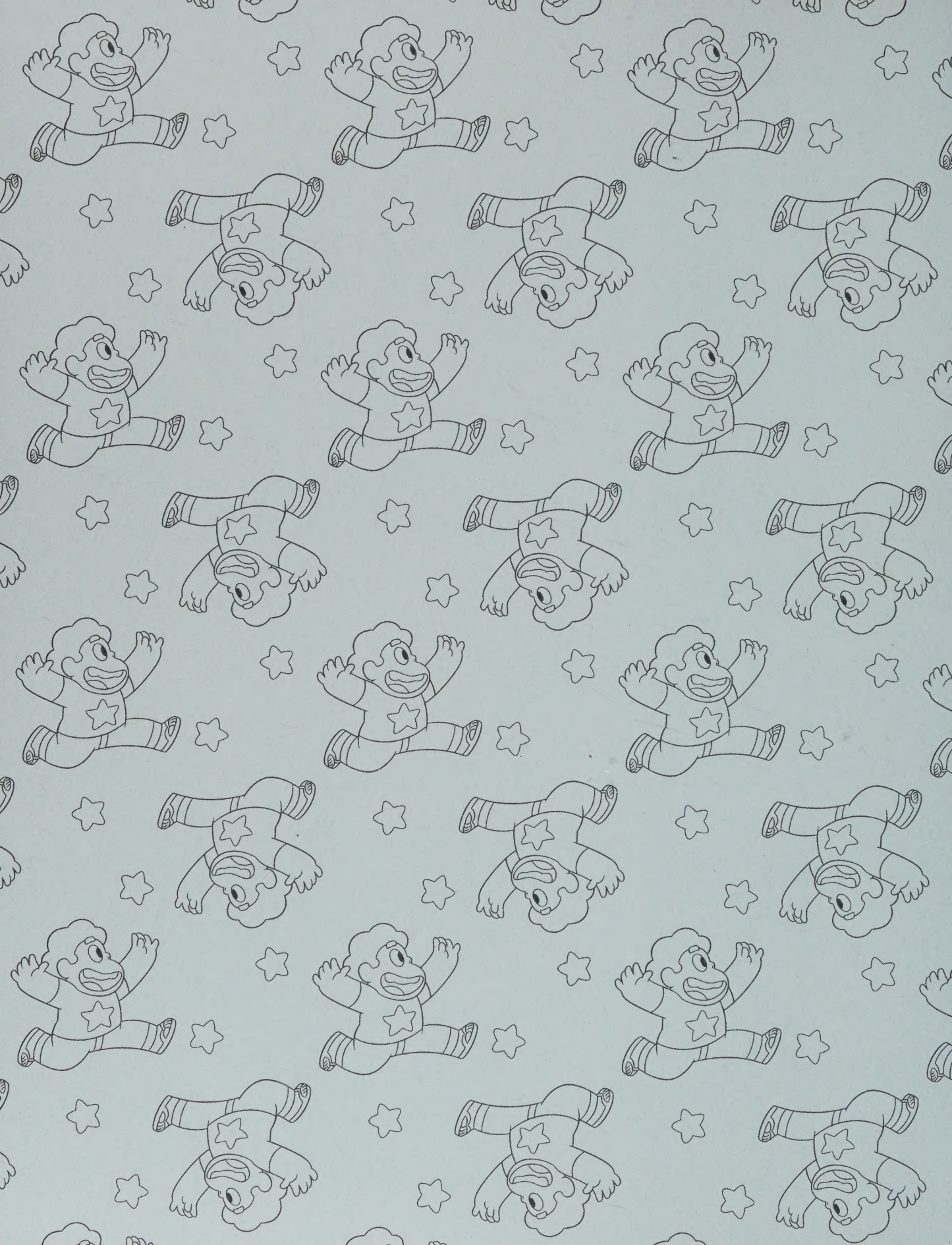

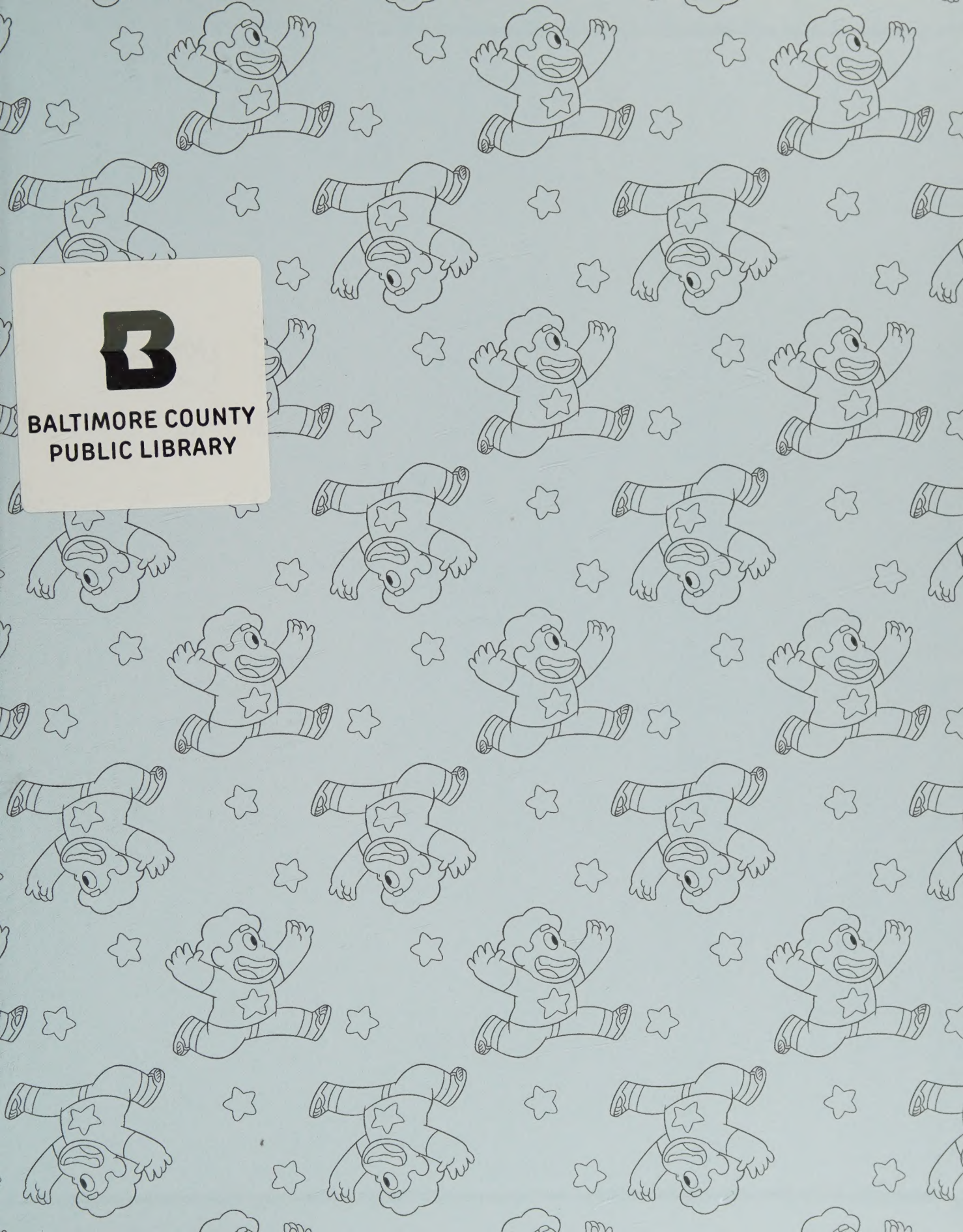

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Once upon a time,

a silly, impossible little Gem
named Pink Diamond
ran away from her Homeworld
to the planet Earth.

She transformed into Rose Quartz
and gave up her existence
to create a half-human child,
Steven Universe.

But so long as Steven has her Gem,
can they BOTH exist?
Is he her? Is she him?
Is she trapped inside his Gem?

This is so DISORIENTING!

In a story unlike any other–
made up of multiple points of view–
who gets to tell the Tale of Steven?

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